DEREE COLLEGE SYLLABUS FOR: **3/0/3**
MU 3324 RESEARCHING AND WRITING ABOUT MUSIC

UK LEVEL: 5
UK CREDITS:15

(Formerly: L4 MU 2124 RESEARCHING AND WRITING ABOUT MUSIC)
(Revised Fall 2022)

PREREQUISITES:	WP 1010 INTRODUCTION TO ACADEMIC WRITING WP 1111 INTEGRATED ACADEMIC WRITING AND ETHICS PH 1004 Character Education
CATALOG DESCRIPTION:	An introduction to the research skills and resources used to support academic work in music and the key concepts and approaches used in current musicology, closely integrated with an exploration of the many ways in which music can be discussed and written about.
RATIONALE:	This course guides students in the development of the key skills they will need to successfully undertake academic projects in the field of music. It builds upon the general skills developed in the writing program (WP 1010, WP 1111, WP 1212) and combines this with skills developed in their first year of specific music studies. Students will develop a practical understanding of the practice of musicology and begin to become familiar with the different forms of specialized research and writing that they will encounter in the field.
LEARNING OUTCOMES:	After successfully completing this course students should be able to: 1. Demonstrate their understanding of how to collect and select sources from research tools within musicology appropriate to a wide range of different musical styles and genres. 2. Infer conclusions from gathered sources, synthesizing ideas through academic writing. 3. Demonstrate the understanding of the conventions of scholarly writing, citation and academic integrity. 4. Identify key elements of a clear and effective writing style through the study of given texts and be able to use this information in order to reflect on their own writing abilities. 5. Develop a coherent well-supported research paper using a recursive process of researching and writing.
METHOD OF TEACHING AND LEARNING:	In congruence with the teaching and learning strategy of the college, the following tools are used: • structured group discussion of example musicology texts; • structured and focused writing activities in which students produce, share, and submit writing individually and collaboratively; • short take-home writing exercises (preparatory work for the assessed coursework); • peer feedback workshops; • use of a learning management system (Blackboard) where instructors post lecture notes, assignment instructions, announcements and additional resources; • students are encouraged to make full use of their instructor's office hours, where they can ask questions, see their assigned work results and/or go over lecture material; • support from the Student Academic Support Services (SASS), who offer one-to-one and group workshop sessions to support the development of academic and study skills.
ASSESSMENT:	**Summative:** First assessment: 30% • Writing assignment *(1000 – 1,500 words)* in the form of small writing projects in a variety of different styles (and on a range of different musical topics). Submission of successive drafts and a critical reflection of the progress of the projects through successive drafts via a video discussion. Final assessment: 70%

	<table><tr><td>• Final written project (3,000 – 3,500 words) on a topic of the student's own choosing, submitted as a collection of drafts with revisions and a final version. Critical reflection on the progress of the proejct through successive drafts via a video discussion.</td><td></td></tr></table> **Formative:** <table><tr><td>Writing Assignment 1</td><td>0</td></tr><tr><td>Writing Assignment 2</td><td>0</td></tr></table> The formative assessments prepare students for both summative assessments. Learning Outcomes 1 & 3 are assessed in the first assessment. Learning Outcomes 2,3,4 & 5 are assessed in the final assessment. Students are required to resit failed assessments in this course.
INDICATIVE READING:	**REQUIRED READING:** Clayton, Martin, Herbert, Trevor & Middleton, Richard (ed.), *The Cultural Study of Music: A Critical Introduction*, Taylor & Francis, 2011. **RECOMMENDED READING:** Beard, David & Gloag, Kenneth, *Musicology: The Key Concepts*, Routledge, 2016. Herbert, Trevor, *Music in Words: A Guide to Researching and Writing about Music*, ABRSM, 2014. Ross, Alex, *Listen To This*, Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 2015.
INDICATIVE MATERIAL: *(e.g. audio visual, digital material, etc.)*	**REQUIRED MATERIAL:** Students will be directed towards a wide-range of text examples from the online music reviews and culture section of The Guardian newspaper (www.newsunlimited.co.uk), academic articles accessed from the ACG library database and a range of academic music books in the ACG library. The focus will be on reading and evaluating a range of different approaches and writing styles.
COMMUNICATION REQUIREMENTS:	Students will be expected to make use of a learning management system (Blackboard) and have an active ACG email account. All written work should follow current MLA standards for formatting, style and citation.
SOFTWARE REQUIREMENTS:	Students will need to use Microsoft Word or Open Office for word processing and submission of written work. They will also need a functioning ACG student account and internet connection for access to online music databases (available on campus and at home through the ACG library) and newspaper websites.
WWW RESOURCES:	The course will use subscription services that are freely available to students both on campus and at home via their ACG student account. An indicative guide at the time of writing would be: • The New Grove Dictionary (www.oxfordmusiconline.com) • International Repertory of Music Literature (www.rilm.org) • JSTORE (www.jstore.org) • Project MUSE (muse.jhu.edu) • MLA Style Center (style.mla.org) • The Lilian Voudouri Music Library of Greece (www.mmb.org.gr)
INDICATIVE CONTENT:	**Musicology:** • Introduction to the different fields and approaches within musicology • Overview of historical and contemporary theories and methodologies • Critical reading, comparison and analysis of a range of different musicology texts • The position of music studies within the digital humanities **Research Resources, Tools and Processes:** • Introduction to database and electronic resources for music study • Navigating resources in order to conduct research • Reading, summarizing, analyzing and synthesizing research sources • Identifying the relevance of research materials and identifying relationships between them and organizing them in support of an argument • Creating a bibliography

	• Practicing recursive research process skills **Writing a Research Essay** • Identifying and focusing a research topic, developing a research question • Formulating thesis statements and abstracts • Developing an argument based on research readings • Practicing recursive research, writing and drafting skills • Understanding and practicing the ethical use of intellectual property